

I

D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R 1 9 6 3

Including the Report of the Senior Public Health Inspector

(Mr. G.S. Sennitt, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.)

D R . J . A . S L A T T E R Y , M . R . C . S . , L . R . C . P . , D . P . H .



• One burial was carried out by the Council during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

The object of this order made under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, is to prevent the spread by waste foods of Foot and Mouth disease, swine fever, fowl pest and other disease. Administration was delegated to the Council by the County Council as from 1st October, 1959.

11 licences were in force and 4 inspections were made during the year.

The proper sterilisation of "Swill" is considered highly important by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL.

Planning Approval to the siting of the Open Air Swimming Pool which is to be provided by the Council in conjunction with the Downham Urban District Council was given in February. The pool is to be situated on the War-Memorial Playing Field, Downham Market.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) Main Piped Supplies.

General.

The District is well served by water mains, and the number of properties not able to have mains water is now very low. Quite a large number, however, are supplied by standpipes, and many terraces have joint standpipes. The policy of the Council is to require water to be provided in pipes inside the house whenever reasonable and practicable.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for two sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager, Mr. C. Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

Water Analyses 1962 - Rural District of Downham.

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1962 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Samples taken

<u>Board's Works</u>	<u>Bacteriological Examinations</u>			<u>Chemical Analyses</u>
	<u>No. of Tests Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests Positive</u>	
Raw waters	217	203	14	
Treated waters	428	425	3	
Taps (consumers)	96	96	-	
Totals	741	724	17	201

Total of all examinations and analyses 942.

Out of the total of treated water samples and samples taken from consumers' taps, 99.4% were negative on examination for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J. S. COLLINS.
Chemist and Bacteriologist.

Schedule of Work carried out in the Downham Rural District
between the 1st January and 31st December, 1962.

New Mains Laid

Fourth Downham Rural Extension Scheme:

Scheme No. D.18 Lakenheath Road		
Hockwold	726 yds.	3" S.I.
D.14 Wretton Fen Drove	78 yds.	3" S.I.
Bridle Lane, Wimbotsham (Renewal)	210 yds.	3" A.C.
Napthans Lane, Wimbotsham	210 yds.	4" A.C.
Chapel Lane Housing Site, Wimbotsham	260 yds.	3" A.C.
Off The Street, Wimbotsham	114 yds.	4" A.C.
Hockwold Bridge Diversion	224 yds.	3" S.I.
Road B.1106 Methwold	48 yds.	6" S.I.
Methwold Hythe Diversion	545 yds.	3" A.C.
	40 yds.	3" p.v.c.
Chalk Pit Lane Housing Site, Methwold	97 yds.	3" S.I.
Banham's Farm, Methwold Hythe	953 yds.	2" p.v.c.
Denton Lodge to Methwold	1,414 yds.	15" A.C.
Lodge Road, Housing Site, Feltwell	166 yds.	3" S.I.
Poppylot Bridge, Feltwell	96 yds.	9" A.C.
	4 yds.	7" Plain
R.A.F. Housing Site, Marham	543 yds.	3" A.C.
Ivy Farm, Watlington	1,114 yds.	2" p.v.c.
Webb's Lane, Northwold	104 yds.	3" A.C.
New Road, Downham West	768 yds.	9" A.C.
	311 yds.	3" p.v.c.
Fordham Bridge, Hilgay	246 yds.	6" S.I.
	18 yds.	9" S.I.
South of Cut Off Channel, West Dereham	177 yds.	3" A.C.
Hockwold Bridge, Hockwold-cum-Wilton	216 yds.	3" A.C.
South Runcton Road, Stow Bridge	259 yds.	4" A.C.
Churchill Crescent, Fincham	54 yds.	3" S.I.
Crabbe Lane Housing Site, Feltwell	154 yds.	3" A.C.

NEW SUPPLIES - January to December, 1962

Marham	-	94	Northwold	-	5
Denver	-	9	Whittington	-	1
Hilgay	-	5	Southery	-	3
Watlington	-	3	Bexwell	-	1
Fincham	-	2	Stoke Ferry	-	4
Ryston	-	2	Barton Bendish	-	1
Pentney	-	1	Welney	-	1
Wretton	-	5	Tottenham	-	1
Brookville	-	2	Wereham	-	3
Feltwell	-	16	Wormegay	-	3
Wimbotsham	-	18	South Runcton	-	1
West Dereham	-	5	Fordham	-	1
Methwold	-	21	Wissington	-	1
Shouldham	-	2	Fincham	-	2
Stow Bardolph	-	3	Wiggenhall		
Hockwold	-	15	St. Germans	-	1

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES

Several samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, and all proved satisfactory. One sample was analysed chemically as it was thought that aircraft fuel oil might be gaining access to the subsoil water. No such contamination was evident.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	56	13	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	42	46	-	-
Totals:	102	60	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	-	-	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	Nil

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Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relation to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	4	4	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act.

No outworkers are known to be employed in the District.

Registered Common Lodging Houses.

There are none in the Council's Area.

NAMING OF STREETS AND NUMBERING OF HOUSES.

A scheme for the naming of streets and numbering of houses in the Parish of Southery was completed during the year. It is hoped eventually to carry out similar schemes for Parishes with over 1,000 population.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No formal action was taken during the year, though investigations were being made into complaints relating to two local industries.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS.

(a) Rats and Mice.

The Council employs one Rodent Operative equipped with a small van and the necessary equipment. A lock-up store is provided for poisons and baits.

The main poison used was Warfarin, which is still the most effective and easily applied poison for general use, whilst the bait base mainly used was Wheatmeal. Other poisons and spoon gassing by Cyanide powder were used in special situations.

651 separate treatments were carried out and 2,654 visits were made during the year.

The Council is charged with the duty of ensuring that owners and occupiers keep their premises and land free of rats and mice. Whilst free treatment or advice was given at domestic premises, a charge of 10s. per hour was made at a limited number of business and agricultural premises.

A private pest control undertaking based at Hilgay continued to operate on Agricultural Land.

During February and March, a co-ordinated rodent control campaign was organised by the Council in conjunction with Downham Market Branch of the N.F.U., and the Ministry of Agricultural and Fisheries, and it was thought that very worthwhile results were achieved. The Council agreed to participate in a similar campaign covering the whole of Norfolk at the end of the year. It was considered, fortunately, that the rat population was much less than in the preceding Winter, at least in this District.

(b) Other pests.

The Refuse Tips were treated regularly with insecticide against fly and cricket infestations, and private premises were occasionally treated for cockroach, flea, ant and silverfish infestations. In addition, several wasp nests were destroyed.

Advice was also given regularly to householders and others on appropriate treatments.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

D O W N H A M R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

Offices: Priory Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL
PURPOSES COMMITTEE:-

Chairman: Mr. H.G. Teverson.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. A.E. Bailey

Mr. L.J. Bell	Mrs. E.M. Neville
Mr. J.H. Bennett	Mr. J. Nourse
Mr. Wm.H. Bentley	Col. E.R. Pratt
Mr. C.W. Buckenham	Mr. E.R.M. Pratt
Mr. A. Fox	Mr. C.W. Thornhill
Mr. G.E. Garfoot	Mr. A.J. Thornton
Mr. H. Gates	Mr. H.C. Walden
Mr. J.H. Johnson	Mr. S.F.L. Warner
Rev'd. I.G. Jones	Mr. R.R. Wilde
Mr. J.W. Kellingray	Mr. E.J. Wright

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

Medical Officer of Health:-

DR. J.A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

Tel. Downham Market 3241.

also holds appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural District Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector:-

G.S. SENNITT, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.P.H.E., A.R.S.H.

Tel. Downham Market 3287. Residence: D.M. 3364.

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

D.R. FORD, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Clerk to the Health Department:-

MISS S. COX.

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending December 31st, 1963.

Births There were 445 live births

The birth rate was 18.04

Deaths There were 195 deaths

The death rate was 9.12

Infectious Disease

There were 285 notifications received for infectious disease other than tuberculosis. Of these 252 were for cases of measles. Four notifications were for infective hepatitis, these cases being part of the outbreak in Hilgay described in my report for 1962. There was one other interesting infection which came to my notice during the year. This was a case of human brucellosis details of which are given below. It is not notifiable.

Brucellosis

Early in the year brucellosis was detected in a herd of T.T. animals. How this came about was reported to you at your Committee meeting but I would like to summarise the events as they are of considerable public health interest.

On February 11th I was informed by local hospital staff that a patient had been admitted seriously ill with brucellosis. He had already responded to treatment and was about to return home. I visited him at home to establish the likely source of infection. His milk supply came from a single herd. Part of the milk from this herd was pasteurised and part sold locally as T.T. farm bottled milk. Milk sampling is normally done by the County Medical Officer's staff and he was able to arrange for a bulk sample to be taken on February 18th. This sample was cultured in the Public Health Laboratory, Norwich and on March 4th a report was received that the milk contained brucella organisms.

The following day a notice was served under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulation 1959 prohibiting the sale of raw milk from this herd direct to the consumer.

At this time only 16 of the 26 animals were in milk. To establish the full extent of the infection in the herd it was necessary to make individual tests on the 16 cows and then to test each of the other 10 as they came into milk. Tests began at once and by April 17th ten animals were found to be free from infection. By separating these animals, their milk and their utensils from the rest of the herd it was possible to lift the restriction on the sale of milk from them. By July 29th tests were completed on the whole herd. These revealed only one infected animal which by this date had been removed from the herd. A final milk sample was taken on November 12th. No organisms were found in this specimen.

Brucellosis is the name given to the infection which in this country is obtained by drinking raw infected milk, or occasionally, by handling infected animals or their carcasses. It follows that farm workers, veterinary surgeons and butchers have an occupational risk which would be difficult to avoid at present but that the general population can be infected only by drinking unpasteurised milk. In the cow brucellosis can cause abortion but in many cases the animal is infected without showing any sign of it. Infection can spread easily from one animal to another.

Not everyone who drinks infected milk will develop brucellosis. Some produce resistance to the organism without becoming ill. When illness does occur it is hard to recognise and probably only those serious enough to require admission to hospital are detected at all. The national incidence of human brucellosis is estimated to be several hundred cases a year and the mortality 1 or 2 per cent.

What can be done to get rid of brucellosis?

Eradication schemes were begun in Denmark over 20 years ago. Danish herds are now brucellosis free and human cases have dropped from 605 in 1936 to 1 in 1959. Similar successes have been obtained in Finland, Norway (whose eradication scheme began in 1933) Sweden, Holland, Germany, the USSR, Canada, the U.S.A. and other countries.

In 1951 the World Health Organisation advised all governments to legislate for eradication schemes.

In 1962 the Public Health Committee of the British Medical Association recommended compulsory notification of human cases.

Later in 1962 a report was published in the Veterinary Record by a team of medical and veterinary specialists. They concluded that the measures needed to eradicate brucellosis were removal of the deficiencies in present day legislation and the setting up of eradication areas. In these areas there would be compulsory vaccination of cattle with strain 19 vaccine and slaughter of infected animals with compensation for the farmer.

The authors agreed with the recommendation of the B.M.A. that there should be compulsory notification of human cases.

With the example of so many countries to guide us it cannot be very long before a national scheme is begun here.

Fluoridation

In February you passed a resolution in favour of the addition of fluoride to water supplies. In July, however, Norfolk County Council voted against fluoridation. This need not mean that parents who wish to preserve their children's teeth in this way can do nothing to provide fluoride for them. As I have mentioned in earlier reports fluoride tablets are available from chemists. The cost is about ten shillings a year for each child. I thoroughly recommend these tablets both for expectant mothers and for children.

County Health Services

For the first time I have included for your information a brief report on some of the County Council's Health Services with which I am closely connected.

The County is divided into 9 health areas for administration purposes. Area 7 is bounded by the perimeters of Downham and Marshland Rural Districts and within this area I act as Medical Officer for the local authority schools and infant welfare clinics. The greater part of my time is spent in this work which I carry out in accordance with the general policy of the County Medical Officer.

(1) School Medical Service

There are 55 schools in my area. Each is visited once a year by a school doctor, either myself or one of the two doctors who work part time in the school clinics. Children are examined in their first year at school and at other fixed times in their school life. Children found to have medical conditions requiring treatment are referred to their family doctors or to hospital clinics.

Others may require educational treatment from specialist staff employed by the local education authority. These include the teachers of the deaf, speech therapists and the educational psychologist. The school doctor has a close liaison with these people and the school staff on the one hand, and with the family doctors and hospital staff on the other. In this way he is the link connecting the social, educational and medical services working for the school child.

(2) Immunisation and Vaccination

Another of my duties is to make arrangements for and carry out preventive inoculations in accordance with the County Council's policy. Children brought to infant welfare clinics where there is a doctor in attendance are offered protection against smallpox, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and poliomyelitis. At present I attend seven infant welfare clinics every month.

School children are offered immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis. In addition they are offered B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis when they are attending the Secondary schools.

These immunisation programmes are subject to frequent alterations as new vaccines are developed. They require considerable organisation and compiling of detailed records. Most schools need to be visited several times a year to complete courses of inoculations at correctly spaced intervals between each injection. All this is made possible by the school staffs whose willing co-operation I greatly appreciate.

Shown below are figures for immunisations carried out by general practitioners and local authority staff in my area during 1963.

Smallpox Vaccination

Primary vaccination			Total	Revaccination			Total
Under 5	5 - 14	15 & over		Under 5	5 - 14	15 & over	
87	6	6		-	-	3	

Tetanus

Primary Courses			Total	Reinforcing Doses			Total
Under 5	5 - 14	15 & over		Under 5	5 - 14	15 & over	
358	368	84		28	241	5	

Whooping Cough

Under 5	5 - 14	Total
353	8	361

Diphtheria

Primary Courses			Total	Reinforcing Doses			Total
Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14		Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	
95	228	119		-	17	424	

Poliomyelitis

Year of birth	1963	1962	1961	1943 - 1960	1933 - 1942	Other age groups	Total
No. given primary courses	37	214	61	33	16	6	367

In addition to the primary courses listed above some children previously immunised with either Salk or Oral vaccine were given booster doses of oral vaccine. The total number of booster doses given in this and earlier years are shown below.

Number given booster oral immunisation after 2 Salk injections - 1082

" " " " " " 3 Salk injections - 460

B.C.G. Vaccination

Number given the preliminary skin test	Number vaccinated	Number referred for chest X-ray
354	293	9

I would like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspectors and members of the Local Health Office staff.

J. A. SLATTERY

Medical Officer of Health.

LOCAL BYELAWS, etc., in operation in the Rural District of Downham
containing provisions relating to Health.

	Operating from
1. Building Byelaws made by the Council.....	12.12.53.
2. Clean Food Byelaws made by the Council....	14. 8.50.
3. Byelaws as to the Sanitary Conditions and Management of Private Slaughterhouses made by the Council.....	1. 2.57.
4. Byelaws made by the Wisbech and District Water Board for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them and Regulations to be read in conjunction therewith.....	30. 5.55.
5. Byelaws as to Good Rule and Government made by the Norfolk County Council.....	1. 6.55 (with later additions)
6. Byelaws made in relation to the Employment of Children by the Norfolk County Council.....	1.12.49.
7. Byelaws as to Gates across and adjoining Highways.....	29.11.34.
8. Byelaws relating to the wearing of collars by dogs and the Norfolk (Control of Dogs) Regulations, 1925.....	No date specified.
9. Byelaws and Regulations relating to Nursing Homes made by the Norfolk County Council.....	No date specified.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS - 1963

Number of Parishes.....	33
Area (in acres).....	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census).....	19,962
Population, 1961 (Census).....	23,655
Estimated Population, 1963	25,650
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied, 1963	6,680
Estimated Rateable Value at 1st April, 1963..	£474,016
Product of a Penny Rate, 1963-64.....	£2,150

Section A.

Live Births	445
Rate per 1,000 population	18.04
Ditto for Administrative County	17.17
Ditto for England and Wales	18.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total	
Live Births	4.27
Deaths (all causes)	195
Rate per 1,000 population	9.12
Ditto for Administrative County	11.23
Ditto for England and Wales	12.2
Still Births	5
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	11.1
Ditto for Administrative County	16.52
Ditto for England and Wales	17.3
Total Live and Still Births	450
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	4
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	8.98
Ditto for Administrative County	16.33
Ditto for England and Wales	20.9
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births	9.39
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	NIL
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births).	4.49
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total Live Births)	4.49
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	15.5
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	NIL

Section B.

1. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

Norfolk Executive Council, 54 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Clerk: F. H. Adams, Esq.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer: DR. J. B. EWEN, M.D., D.P.H.
Croft-Holme, 117 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

(a) General

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick)
- (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) Maternity

- (i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (ii) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (iii) Bowthorpe Maternity Hospital Wisbech.

(c) Infectious

- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

(d) Sanatoria

- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) Mental

- (i) St. Andrew's, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served):-

Nurse Waite, The Homestead, Brookville, Methwold.
(Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Stoke Ferry Road, Methwold, Thetford.
(Methwold).

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn.
(Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, South Rington, Stone Cross Estate).

Nurse O'Leary, Nurse's Home, Nordelph.
(Downham West, Nordelph, Barroway Drive, Salters Lode).

Nurse Harris, Nurse's House, Buckenham Drive, Stoke Ferry.
(Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Whittington, Marham and
R.A.F. Marham).

Nurse Browne, Ploughcroft, Mill Road, Watlington.
(Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans,
Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).

Nurse Williams, 2, Queen's Close, Wereham.
(Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham).

Nurse P.A. Tuck, Nurse's House, Hilgay.
(Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay, Southery).

Nurse Williams, 2, Queen's Close, Wereham.
(Crimpleham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton, Barton Bendish).

Nurse Greensitt, 10, Chapel Lane, West Winch. (Setch).

(b) Maternity

Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICES

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office, 15, Nelson Street, King's Lynn.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

- (a) Wiggenhall St. Germans - Mrs. Richer.
- (b) Watlington - Mrs. Thomas.
- (c) Marham - Mrs. F. Brown.
- (d) Downham Market - Mrs. I. Burbeck.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

- (a) Infant Welfare Centres.
 - (i) Downham Market.
 - (ii) Wimbotsham.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages - Methwold, Hockwold, Northwold, Southery, Shouldham, Stoke Ferry, Magdalen, St. Germans, Nordelph, Marham, Feltwell and Watlington.

- (b) Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are available for the following parishes and villages - Barton Bendish, Feltwell, Hockwold, Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runciton Holme and Bexwell.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males: Tuesdays and Fridays - 5.30 p.m.

Females and Children: Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
Under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Clarence House, 6, Clarence Road, Norwich.
- (c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Section C.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1963

Table No. 1.

Causes of Death.

<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	-	1
2. Tuberculosis, other forms	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	10	-	10
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	11	10	21
15. Leukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	20	33
18. Coronary disease, angina	14	10	24
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	-	1
20. Other heart diseases	8	8	16
21. Other circulatory diseases	4	5	9
22. Influenza	-	1	1
23. Pneumonia	7	8	15
24. Bronchitis	7	4	11
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis, Nephrosis	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	7	11	18
33. Motor vehicle accidents	5	-	5
34. All other accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	2	-	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
<hr/>			
All causes	100	95	195
<hr/>			

Table No. 2.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1963

Notification in Age Groups

	AGES													TOTAL	Hospital to Removed	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Age Un- known			
MEASLES	5	21	35	31	27	113	15	-	-	1	-	-	4	252	-	-
WHOOPING COUGH	1	1	2	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-
PNEUMONIA	-	1	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	-	-
INFECTIVE JAUNDICE	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
SCARLET FEVER	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DIPHTHERIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	23	37	32	32	128	16	1	2	1	-	-	7	285	-	-

Table No. 3.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES - 1963

(Other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
MEASLES	12	27	20	35	-	14	8	106	18	3	9	-	252
WHOOPING COUGH	-	-	-	3	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	13
PNEUMONIA	-	1	5	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
INF. JAUNDICE	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
SCARLET FEVER	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	6
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ERYSIPELAS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NON-PARA POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PARALYTIC POLIO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSENTERY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FOOD POISONING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENCEPHALITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MENINGITIS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	14	31	27	39	-	16	17	108	18	6	9	-	285

Table No. 4.

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS - 1963

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS				Total
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Age unkown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-35	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-45	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
-55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-65	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
65 and over	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS	4	3	-	-	2	-	1	-	10

Section D.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A summary of the work of the Council in Public Health and allied matters during 1963 follows.

Considerable time was taken up during the latter part of the year in the investigation of a nuisance due to the strong smell from a large battery egg production unit at Denver. No satisfactory solution had been found at the end of the year, and stronger powers to deal with the siting of such units, the numbers of which were expected to increase rapidly, appeared to be urgently necessary.

An effort will have to be made to increase the number of visits to food establishments; it is most important that food handlers are constantly reminded of their considerable responsibilities to the public.

A very notable event was the advent of compulsory meat inspection throughout the country on 1st October, whilst the amendment of the fire precaution requirements in the Council's licencing conditions is considered to be a valuable step forward - every caravan now has to have an approved fire extinguisher available inside.

The slum clearance programme was maintained satisfactorily, and the final clearance of the unfit temporary hutments on the Stone Cross Estate and the completion of the Council's pre-war house modernisation programme were in sight. 191 grossly unfit houses remained to be dealt with at the end of the year. The failure of many more people to take advantage of house improvement grants is to be regretted; your Officers draw attention to the grants at every opportunity, but it is considered that many people have their priorities wrong in this affluent age!

The further increase in the number of requests for cesspool emptying was anticipated, and mention must be made of the very difficult period during the first 8 months of the year when it was not possible to honour requests within a reasonable time. It was hoped that the arrangements made with the private firm who were expecting additional equipment would improve the service.

Feltwell sewerage scheme proceeded rapidly during the year, and the County Public Health Engineer was asked to look at the northern part of the district with the possibility of grouped schemes being carried out.

My thanks are due to the Council, my own staff and colleagues for information, advice and generous co-operation which I invariably receive.

Summary of Visits

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	700
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	127
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	54
Moveable Dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Housing	..	..	..	..	..	;	..	..	967
Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	533
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Milk and Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Food Premises	69
Infectious Disease	43
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	273
Atmospheric Pollution	5
Street Numbering	92
Miscellaneous Food	30
Ice Cream Premises	3
Fried Fish Shops	7
National Assistance Acts	2
Milk Sampling Bacteriological	4

Total: 3105

1960 - 3495. 1961 - 2784. 1962 - 3154.

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES

253 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with . (238 in 1961, 202 in 1962)

85% of the complaints were of unsatisfactory drainage, whilst the rest related to housing defects, smells from accumulations of refuse, manure and the keeping of animals.

Continual strong complaints of smell from May onwards were received from a number of householders in the vicinity of large poultry battery houses on a site at Sluice Road, Denver.

Investigations showed that nuisances from some of these large scale installations were being experienced in other parts of the country, and there was difficulty in disposing of droppings from the birds. Further similar projects in the Council's area were under consideration.

Apprehension was being expressed in many quarters about the probable rapid expansion of this "factory farming" system in the interests of cheaper egg production, with the siting of the batteries too near residential property.

Planning Control appeared inadequate to deal with the position.

The Council decided to take action under the Nuisance procedure of the Public Health Act, 1936, and to press through the County Council for stronger planning powers.

The nuisance at Denver persisted at the end of the year, and the case for the granting of a Nuisance Order remained to be heard.

NOTICES SERVED

The number of written notices other than Housing Act Notices served during the year was 38, classified as follows:-

	Informal (Letters)	Statutory	Complied with	Complied with Notices served during 1961/62.
Housing Repairs	18	-	7	15
Drainage and Sanitation	7	-	3	2
Food Premises	4	1	1	13
Miscellaneous	4	1	-	2
Moveable Dwellings	5	-	3	1
Totals	38	2	14	33

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

(a) General

It was again not possible to give the necessary amount of attention to food hygiene, and the number of routine visits to various premises was reduced.

In spite of improvements such as refrigeration, improved packaging and various treatment processes, the activities of the individual food handler are all important. A careless or uninstructed food handler may be a menace! People who show no signs of disease themselves may be carriers of germs which may multiply enormously when introduced on certain foods and cause disease in large numbers of people. It is most important that food handlers who actually being to suffer from stomach and intestinal complaints, boils, burns and sores on the fingers consult their Doctor without delay and tell him that they are employed as a food handler. They should also inform the Management.

It is known that the number of notifications to Doctors from food handlers in this way is exceedingly small.

There are some 25 communicable diseases associated with food - well over 7,000 notified outbreaks of food poisoning occur each year!

At 31st December there were operating from within the District:-

- 2 Fishmongers (selling wet fish) including 1 mobile unit.
- 11 Fish Friers (including 3 mobile units).
- 8 Bakehouses.
- 17 Butchers Shops.
- 4 Licensed Slaughterhouses.
- 4 Cafes.
- 84 Licensed Houses including 5 clubs.
- 102 General Food Shops.
- 6 Shops selling sweets and lemonade.
- 4 Bakers and Confectioners Shops.
- 8 Firms delivering bread and confectionery.
- 2 Factory Canteens.
- 1 Chemist.
- 7 Mobile Grocers Shops operating.
- 1 Flour Depot.

Investigations at one bread bakehouse showed that its general situation, structure and hygiene standard were unsuitable, and formal action was being followed at the end of the year.

32 visits were made to 15 school canteens by the County Council's public health staff in the Council's area and in 10 cases where recommendations for improvements were made in accordance with the Food Hygiene Regulations, the work was carried out.

(b) Ice-cream

4 new premises were registered during the year. At 31st December, 99 premises were selling ice-cream, including fruit ices, all of it being prepared and pre-packed by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried out in the District.

No samples of ice-cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination during the year, but examination of the results taken in neighbouring areas showed that high standards are being maintained in the production of this commodity.

(c) Slaughterhouses

Four private slaughterhouses were licensed and in use throughout the year, one each in the parishes of Stoke Ferry, Feltwell, Methwold and Stow Bridge.

All had been brought up to the standard required by regulations, and stunning pens were provided.

They catered for the requirements of the four butchers concerned only, and no meat was "exported" to other areas.

Generally, hygienic standards were satisfactory, but a close watch is kept on general practice by your Inspectors during meat inspection visits, and constant improvement is called for. It is considered that wiping cloths should be prohibited and water sprays substituted, if necessary with the addition of absorbent tissue paper on roll dispensers for final drying of the carcass. There is trade resistance to the abolition of wiping cloths, but in my experience they are seldom sterilised regularly. Bacterial contamination is easily spread from one carcass to another.

No complaint from the public arose owing to the use of the slaughterhouses.

(d) Slaughtermen

At 31st December, there were 26 trained slaughtermen in the District, 5 "new" licences being issued during the year.

Slaughtermen have to be at least 18 years of age, and also "fit and proper persons" to hold a licence, which lasts for up to one year.

The licence specifies the kinds of animal which may be slaughtered or stunned, and the types of instrument which may be used, and also enables the holder to slaughter in other Districts (except in the case of slaughter of horses).

(e) Meat Inspection

100% post mortem inspection of carcasses was carried out with the ready co-operation of the butchers, as it has been since de-rationing of meat in 1954.

The Department will be notified by the butcher where there is an obvious need for ante-mortem inspection, but occasional inspections are made.

The Council's frequent criticism of the fact that 100% post-mortem inspection of meat was not carried out in all areas was largely met on October 1st, 1963, as 100% inspection was required on that date, and the detailed code of inspection procedure was made compulsory by Regulations. Any authority not able to inspect all meat under the Regulations has to report the fact to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, but this will not apply after 30th September, 1965.

Local authorities were given power to make a charge for inspection under the above arrangements, but this Council decided against making a charge.

Carcasses passed as fit have to be stamped in a specified manner.

For the third year in succession, no tuberculosis was found in cattle, and no case of cysticercosis for the second year. The incidence of other diseases was also low.

Only prime animals are slaughtered in this Council's District. The incidence of disease found in larger slaughterhouses receiving cows and animals of greater age, including emergency slaughter cases, and from a wide area, is, of course, very much higher, although bovine tuberculosis has almost been eliminated.

(F) CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART DURING THE YEAR.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats
Number killed	868	-	5	1552	1734	-
Number inspected	868	-	5	1552	1734	-
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci Whole carcasses condemned Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci						
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	32	-	-	1	59	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.67%	-	-	0.06%	3.4%	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	32	-
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration Generalised and totally condemned					1.84%	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-

Weight of Condemned Meat

	lbs.
Beasts	
Head and Offal	345
Carcass Meat	36
Pigs	
Head and Offal	90
Carcass Meat	-
Sheep	
Offal	2
Carcass Meat	-
Total:	<hr/> 573 lbs. <hr/>

(g) Condemned Food

In addition to the meat mentioned above, the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

16 lbs. sheeps liver.
28 lbs. bovine liver.
292 lbs. beef.
88 lbs. imported chilled beef.
58 lbs. mutton.
112 lbs. pork.

(h) Registration of Premises for the Preparation of Sausages, etc.

15 butchers premises were registered at the end of the year, and it was not necessary to take any formal action.

Very strict hygiene is necessary where meat foods are made-up, and an inspector can rarely be fully satisfied with the adequacy of measures taken to protect the public against food poisoning, typhoid, etc.

(i) Food Contamination

Two complaints were received during the year, both relating to bottles of milk from different supplies. In one case, glass was found, and in another a length of wire.

Conditions at one dairy (both were outside the Council's District) were unsatisfactory, and certain recommendations were made with the co-operation of the local authority concerned. Whilst conditions at the other dairy appeared satisfactory, extra vigilance on behalf of the 'spotter' staff was called for. Actually, in view of the astronomical number of bottles dealt with, it was felt that the staff did very well. Many of the milk bottles returned had been grossly misused by the public.

No legal action was taken in the above cases.

It is felt that the advantages of the general use of non-returnable, waxed cartons for milk by the industry would far outweigh the extra cost, and the public would accept this extra cost if the advantages were carefully explained well before the change-over.

(j) Milk and Dairies

The Council is responsible for the registration of milk distributors only, and of any premises used by them for the treatment, storage and distribution of milk.

There are 8 dairies and 30 distributors registered, all of whom are concerned with storage and distribution only.

Your Medical Officer of Health, however, has certain overall powers with regard to infection of milk at all premises where milk is handled, including the farms.

It was necessary to prevent the sale of milk, unless pasteurised, from one herd at Stoke Ferry during the year, owing to the discovery of brucella abortus infection. The 7 cows affected were eventually isolated and slaughtered, and restrictions were removed. The biological and direct culture investigations made by the County Council involved the submission of 30 individual samples from the herd. The germ is liable to cause Undulant Fever in man.

There was a certain amount of concern among the public during the year about the introduction of "homogenised" milk by a large dairy. This is milk in which the globules of cream or fat in the milk have been subjected to an extra process of breaking down into a much finer form so that the cream does not separate out on the top. The milk has not been adulterated, nor has any constituent been abstracted therefrom.

One can understand the confusion in the minds of the public over the different designations applied to milk over the years. It is felt that 'public relations' in this sphere has been somewhat neglected. Nevertheless, our milk supply has never been safer than at present.

The County Council's public health staff took 47 samples of designated milk for examination, and all satisfied the statutory test.

Two new retailers' licences were issued during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are now no offensive trades within the meaning of the Public Health Act, 1936, operating in the District.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

According to the annual caravan survey carried out by local authorities and the Norfolk County Council, this District had the highest number of fully residential caravans in the County in August - 258.

The relatively few holiday caravans were mainly occupied by fishermen for short periods.

Inspections revealed that a large number of people now store towing caravans in back yards during the Winter, for which neither planning permission nor a site licence is necessary. Checks for occupation have to be made nevertheless.

21 site licences, including renewals, in respect of 24 caravans were issued during the year. In addition, 34 licences issued in 1961 and 1962 and covering 169 caravans remained in force. All these were issued after planning permission had been obtained, and they expire at the same date as planning permission.

The conditions on the licences are comprehensive, one set applying to sites of up to 5 caravans, and a more comprehensive set applying on sites above this number.

Owing to a fatality in one caravan in the area, and the numerous press reports of fires in caravans, the Council became most concerned, and I was asked to conduct an investigation to see if the fire precaution provisions embodied in the Council's conditions could be strengthened.

After extensive investigations, I reported in May, and all licence conditions were amended. In particular, each caravan is now to be provided with at least a one gallon water extinguisher of the soda acid or gas pressure type, or a 2 lb. capacity minimum dry powder extinguisher. At the same time a comprehensive leaflet on fire precautions was issued with each licence.

Again, I regret to report that with the staff available, it is difficult to enforce these conditions.

The largest sites are situated as follows:-

Marham	-	52 Caravans.
Feltwell	-	42 "
Feltwell	-	10 "
Shouldham	-	10 "
Marham	-	10 "

HOUSING

(a) Housing Acts and Council Housing

38 houses, mainly bungalows, were completed during the year, and all were to meet slum clearance needs. None were in the course of construction at the end of the year.

41 families were rehoused from unfit dwellings, including 4 from Council owned property.

The further housing needs of the District were considered in December, and the Council decided to build a further 102 dwellings in a three year period from 1964.

The allocation of the houses to be as under:

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Dwellings</u>
Barton Bendish	8
Crimpleham	2
Denver	18
Dereham West	2
Downham West	4
Feltwell	12
Hilgay	4
Methwold	6
Northwold	2
Shouldham	4
Southery	6
Stoke Ferry	12
Watlington	6
Wereham	4
Wimbotsham	8
Wiggenhall St. Germans	4
	<hr/>
	102
	<hr/>

It was expected that most of these dwellings would be two-bedroomed bungalows.

Some of the houses provided were to be for general purposes as well as slum clearance, with the proviso that at no time should general need applicants outride the claims for rehousing slum clearance families.

It was further decided that all the 148 pre-war houses still to be improved be completed in 3 years.

33 pre-war houses were modernised during the year by the addition of bath, lavatory basins and w.c.'s., hot and cold water supplies, drainage systems and fuel stores. 15 houses were being improved at the end of the year.

During the year, Discretionary Improvement Grants were approved in respect of 10 dwellings and Standard Grants in respect of 41 dwellings. (22 and 40 respectively in 1962) Most of the grants are made in respect of owner/occupied property.

(b) Rent Act, 1957

Two Certificates of Disrepair were issued by the Council and no application was refused.

There were no cancellations of existing certificates and one Undertaking to repair was submitted by a landlord. This was accepted and the work was carried out.

(c) Temporary Hutments, Stone Cross Estate

At 31st December, 9 dwellings remained in occupation (15 at 31st December, 1962). They are closed or demolished when vacated, although your Housing Manager is authorised to utilise the best accommodation by transfers.

(d) Waiting List

On 1st November, 1963, following the annual revision there were 498 individual applications for accommodation registered, figures for previous years being as under:-

1962	-	450
1961	-	414
1960	-	414
1959	-	364
1958	-	363
1957	-	331
1956	-	314
1955	-	301

47 of the applications, however, related to transfers by Council house tenants to larger or smaller accommodation. 106 applications were from people living outside the Council's District as against 38 in 1962.

The Parishes of Feltwell, Denver and Hilgay had most applications in that order. (47, 45 and 42).

(e) Summary of Council Dwellings at 31st December

Traditional Houses

(a) Pre-war	420
Post-war	870

Pre-fabricated Permanent Houses

(Aireys and Swedish)	76
------------------------------	----

Other Properties

Downham Market	..	..	..	..	..	6
Stoke Ferry .	..	..	..	..	..	3
Nordelph	..	..	..	..	..	2
Denver .	..	..	..	..	..	5
Stone Cross Temporary Hutments	..	..				9
Methwold	..	..	..	..	..	8
Total:						<u>1399</u>

(f) Private Enterprise Housing

94 Permanent houses and bungalows were completed during the year, and 108 were under construction. (66 completed in 1961).

(g)

HOUSING ACT ACTION

1st January to 31st December, 1963

	Demolition Orders made	Closing Orders made	Undertakings not to relet accepted	Unfit Dwellings Vol. Demolished	Unfit Dwellings Demolished Formal action	Unfit Dwellings rep. formal action	Unfit Dwellings purchased	Cat. 5 Dwellings still to be dealt with
Barton Bendish	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	10
Boughton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Crimplesham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denver	3	-	-	-	-	1	4	10
Dereham West	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Downham West								
incl. Salters Lode	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	9
Feltwell	-	1	-	1	-	4	-	6
Fincham	1	2	-	-	4	-	-	6
Fordham	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Hilgay								
incl. Ten Mile Bank	18	-	1	-	2	1	-	30
Hockwold	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Marham	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Methwold	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Nordelph	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Northwold	4	1	-	-	3	1	-	8
Runcton Holme	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Ryston incl. Stone X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
Shouldham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Shouldham Thorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Southery	2	3	-	2	3	-	-	11
Stoke Ferry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Stow Bardolph	3	1	-	-	3	-	-	10
Stradsett	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tottenham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Watlington	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Welney	4	1	-	4	1	-	-	6
Wereham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wiggenhall St. Germans	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Wigg. St. Mary Magdalen	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wigg. St. Mary the Virgin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wimbotsham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Wormegay	6	1	-	-	6	-	-	2
Wretton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Totals:	42	16	1	8	28	10	4	191
Figures for 1962	29	37	5	7	26	6	-	220
- do - 1961	20	20	2	2	36	8	-	318
- do - 1960	54	32	1	12	49	4	-	337
- do - 1959	39	37	14	9	27	11	6	374
- do - 1958	35	26	6	9	30	11	4	445

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The fortnightly "kerbside" collection of refuse continued throughout the District, although some properties received a less frequent service, mainly by agreement. As in the country as a whole, refuse continued to become bulkier and lighter. Calls for service from isolated properties became more numerous.

Four and often five men were employed on the two vehicles used for collection, whilst one man is employed on tip control and the haulage of soil cover. Another man is employed part time on soil cartage.

The Fordson Tractor with foreloading bucket and blade continued to give good service. Full advantage was again taken of large quantities of soil loaded free by the British Sugar Corporation at Wissington Factory, and a Civil Engineering Firm at Marham, for tip control. Other soil cover is purchased at 2/6 per cubic yard.

The tips are frequently treated for rats and other vermin, by the Rodent Operator.

The Council considered, and decided against, the institution of a dustbin or paper sack scheme throughout the District during the year, as provided for by the Public Health Act, 1936.

It was decided, however, to provide replacement 2½ cubic feet dustbins where necessary at all Council houses, and this is considered to be a very big step forward.

Refuse tips in use during the year were situated at Magdalen (part of year only), Shouldham, Wormegay, Fincham, Feltwell, Ten Mile Bank, Northwold and Whittington. There were no complaints of nuisance from the public, but considerable trouble was as usual experienced in control due to unauthorised dumping, especially at Shouldham, Whittington and Feltwell.

The Council was concerned during the year at the increased tendency for the public to dump old car bodies on tips, in hedge bottoms and dykes, lanes and on private land. Various legal powers are provided to deal with the situation, but the Council, along with most other rural councils, is not suitably equipped at present. The matter is being studied nationally, and a report will be made in due course.

(b) Pail Emptying

Pail closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Downham West, Fincham and Feltwell, 2½ days per week being spent on this work. Half of the cost of this work is borne by the General Rate fund and half by the parishes concerned by special rate.

The use of the tractor and equipment for the construction of straw composting bays for pail contents considerably eased the disposal situation, and several of these are in use on private land. Acknowledgement is made to the co-operation of farmers in this connection. Disposal difficulties do arise at times, as with the disposal of cesspool contents, especially when the land is fully cropped. It is often necessary to utilise refuse tips for the purpose, but every effort is made to prevent nuisance.

During the year, the Council decided to end the Feltwell pail emptying scheme 6 months after the new sewerage works were put into operation.

Mention must be made of the difficult, and often almost impossible, conditions the pail emptying crew had to face during the bitterly cold weather in January and February. I have nothing but praise for the cheerful and efficient way in which they kept the service operating.

(c) Cesspool Emptying, etc.

The new four wheel drive Cesspool Emptier of 1000 gallons capacity was ordered and put into operation in the Autumn. The Council only operate one machine.

Minor troubles, such as access to the cab, were quickly dealt with, but it was soon realised that the inability of the machine to discharge under pressure whilst in four wheel drive motion was a drawback which was likely to have repercussions as far as the goodwill of farmers was concerned. Your Officers asked the Engineering Company concerned to prepare a modification as soon as reasonably possible.

The machine continued to deal with the desludging of Council Sewerage Plants at four monthly intervals, and access to these was made much easier owing to the four-wheel drive.

In addition, pumping wells, sewage tanks and silt traps in other parts of the district are dealt with as well as cesspools.

No. of cesspools emptied:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tovey Transport Ltd.,</u>	<u>Council</u>	<u>Total</u>
1959	153	405	558
1960	230	408	638
1961	466	312	778
1962	607	289	896
1963	672	345	1,017

Sewage Plants and tanks emptied

1959	-	70	70
1960	-	93	93
1961	2	58	60
1962	1	76	77
1963	-	61	61

The extremely cold Winter added to the difficulty of coping with the emptying of an increasing number of cesspools, and Tovey Transport Ltd., who continued to carry out the bulk of the work, were quite unable to give a service within a reasonable time. In some cases a period of two months elapsed before orders were dealt with. Overtime working by the Council's staff and that of Tovey Transport was necessary until September to stabilise the situation.

The Council considered the question of the purchase of another Cesspool Emptier in July, but on the assurance of Tovey Transport Ltd., that adequate new vehicles were being secured, and that they would be able to cope adequately even with an emergency like the last one, the Council agreed that the daily hire of the firm should continue for a further period of one year.

The Council do not provide a free service for emptying cesspools, but the average subsidy for emptying amounted to 30s. 0d.

The charge is £1 for the first two loads and 10s. for each additional load. An average of 5 cesspools is dealt with during a day by each vehicle employed.

During the year, the Council agreed to a request from the Department that drying beds for cesspool contents be incorporated in the design for a sewage plant to serve the parishes of Hilgay and Denver.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Your Surveyor reported that the 20 sewage treatment plants survived the extreme weather conditions without great damage, although maintenance in the freezing conditions was very difficult.

A freak thunderstorm in the Southery area on 6th June, together with flooding, caused the new sewage plant to be completely inundated, but no damage was caused except for a degree of silting.

The Feltwell sewerage scheme was commenced on the 18th February, and the work proceeded exceedingly well during the year.

Work on the Hilgay and Denver sewerage schemes was held up pending an investigation into the possibility of a joint scheme, and in September the Council agreed to a joint scheme with a plant adjacent to the new River at Fordham.

In addition, the County Public Health Engineer was asked to survey the northern part of the District, also with a view to a joint scheme or schemes.

As a result of further flooding at Shouldham and Salters Lode, your Surveyor was asked to prepare a partial scheme for local drainage at each location.

The re-piping of a dyke in front of the Council houses at Lynn Road, Southery, gave greatly improved conditions in that area.

Periodical cleansing of 'sewerage dykes' to minimise nuisance was carried out, and sub-irrigation soakaways were installed on numerous troublesome cesspools on Council Housing Sites.

I feel it necessary to repeat my remarks of last year about the need for detailed consideration to be given as to the method of drainage proposed where new estates are planned on wet sites. The Public Health Department is frequently asked to solve problems arising from septic tank or cesspool drainage, either legally or technically almost as soon as the houses are occupied, and the solution is then financially impracticable.

To many new owners of dwellings in the country, the septic tank or cesspool is a complete mystery, and wrong advice given by well meaning people such as 'it will never need emptying' leads to disillusionment and extreme anger.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 50

One burial was carried out by the Council during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

(a) Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order, 1957

The object of this order made under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950, is to prevent the spread by waste foods of Foot and Mouth disease, swine fever, fowl pest and other disease. Administration was delegated to the Council by the County Council as from 1st October, 1959.

Only two persons were collecting in December 1963
(11 in 1961).

The proper sterilisation of "Swill" is considered highly important by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(b) Anthrax Order, 1938

During the year, the administrative procedure consequent upon the discovery of suspected Anthrax was thoroughly clarified by the County Council. The functions of the Police, veterinary surgeons and the Medical Officer of Health and his staff were set out in a comprehensive memorandum.

PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL

Discussions on the facilities at the proposed open air swimming pool to be provided jointly by the Council and the Downham Market Urban District Council on the War Memorial Playing Field, Downham Market, continued during the year. A tender was accepted in October.

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Main Piped Supplies

General

The District is well served by water mains, and the number of properties not able to have mains water is now very low. Quite a large number, however, are supplied by standpipes, and many terraces have joint standpipes. The policy of the Council is to require water to be provided in pipes inside the house whenever reasonable and practicable.

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for two sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am indebted to the Board's Engineer and Manager, Mr. C. Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:-

Water Analyses 1963 - Rural District of Downham

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1963 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Samples taken

<u>Board's Works</u>	No. of Tests Taken	<u>Bacteriological Examinations</u>		<u>Chemical Analyses</u>
		No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	
Raw waters	230	220	10	
Treated waters	348	348	-	
Taps (Consumers)	139	139	-	
Totals	717	707	10	172

Total of all examinations and analyses = 889.

Out of the total of treated water samples taken from consumers' taps, 100% were negative on examination for organisms of the coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J. S. COLLINS.

Chemist and Bacteriologist.

Schedule of Work carried out in the Downham Rural District
between the 1st January and 31st December, 1963

New Mains Laid

Ryston End, Downham Market	35 yds.	4" A.C.
Eau Brink Bridge, Wiggenhall St. Mary	90 yds.	3" P.V.C.
Ringmore Road, Southery	170 yds.	3" A.C.
Hilgay Housing Site	(320 yds.	4" A.C.
	(134 yds.	3" A.C.
Brookville, Methwold	433 yds.	3" P.V.C.
Lodge Road Housing Site, Feltwell	153 yds.	3" A.C.
Old Brandon Road, Feltwell.....	51 yds.	3" A.C.
Chalk Pit Lane Housing Site, Methwold	90 yds.	3" A.C.
Housing Site, R.A.F. Marham	(750 yds.	3" A.C.
	(901 yds.	4" A.C.
New Road, Wimbotsham	326 yds.	4" P.V.C.
Road Diversion, Downham West	(14 yds.	3" P.V.C.
	(12 yds.	9" S.I.
Stow Bridge to Emneth Hungate Main	2724 yds.	24" S.I.

New Supplies - January to December, 1963, totalled 146.

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES

One sample was taken for bacteriological examination during the year, and this proved unsatisfactory. Advice and assistance was given to several more people in matters concerning such supplies.

Methaemoglobinaemia

One sample of well water intended for use for infant feeding was submitted for examination by the County Council for nitrate content during the year. This was found to be satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	6	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	56	17	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	37	41	-	-
Totals:	97	64	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	4	-	-	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	Nil
-					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	-	-	-	-	Nil
Total:	5	4	-	-	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

One outworker was known to be employed in the District.

Registered Common Lodging Houses

There are none in the Council's Area.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No formal action was taken during the year, though investigations were being made into complaints relating to two local industries.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS

(a) Rats and Mice

The Council employs one Rodent Operative equipped with a small van and the necessary equipment. A lock-up store is provided for poisons and baits.

The main poison used was Warfarin, which is still the most effective and easily applied poison for general use, whilst the bait base mainly used was Wheatmeal. Other poisons and spoon gassing by Cyanide powder were used in special situations.

465 separate treatments were carried out and 1,933 visits were made during the year. The Operative was ill for 5 weeks during the year.

The Council is charged with the duty of ensuring that owners and occupiers keep their premises and land free of rats and mice. Whilst free treatment or advice was given at domestic premises, a charge of 10s. per hour was made at 18 business and 39 agricultural premises.

A private pest control undertaking based at Hilgay continued to operate on Agricultural land.

During the week commencing 3rd February, the Council participated in another co-ordinated rodent control campaign organised by Councils throughout Norfolk, in conjunction with the N.F.U. and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and it was thought that very worthwhile results were achieved. The level of infestation on agricultural land was again high.

(b) Other pests

The Refuse Tips were treated regularly with insecticide against fly and cricket infestations, and private premises were occasionally treated for cockroach, flea, ant and silverfish infestations. In addition, several wasp nests were destroyed.

Advice was also given regularly to householders and others on appropriate treatments.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

